

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

5:39p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Green called the meeting to order. Mr. Sommer made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island §42-46-5(a) (1) (2) Teacher Negotiations, Discussion of potential litigation involving claims by H.Carr & Sons. Ms. Mark seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mr. Jack Sommer; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Clark Smith, and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 5:48p.m.). Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration, and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also in attendance.

7:09p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was already in session.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

Mr. Bruce Fox discussed his concerns regarding safety in the Tamarack neighborhood. He is requesting that the previous bus stop be reinstated. This has been an ongoing issue since fall which has not been resolved. Mr. Fox presented the Committee with a map of the neighborhood. He has also sent pictures of the traffic in this area to Dr. Mercurio and some Committee members. Mr. Fox said a bus stop at the corner of Tamarack and Larch would suffice. Dr. Mercurio has visited the bus stop and will revisit tomorrow.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and executive for December 18, 2012

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes for December 18, 2012.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio has continued to monitor school safety with building principals and the director of facilities. The East Greenwich Police Department has scheduled visits with each school to discuss lockdown protocol. Dr. Mercurio will report back to the Committee at a future meeting. The grade three configuration was discussed at last night's pre-budget meeting with the Town Council. Building principals' are budgeting for the move. Support services and itinerant scheduling are being reviewed. The Wellness Corporation will hold a community flu clinic at Cole on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 from 4:00-7:00p.m. An Alert Now message will be sent out to the community tomorrow and the list serv will also be used. Two rounds

of interviews were held for the Director of Student Services. At this time, there are no viable candidates. The position will be reposted. The interim Director of Student Services will stay in the position as long as necessary.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns. Mr. Green asked subcommittee chairs to give a report at the next meeting.

VII Action Items

a. Second Read/Adoption- Policy #5415 Personnel Assignment Policy

This policy received a first read at the last School Committee meeting. Dr. Gifford asked that a few revisions be made to this policy. Under “Policy,” LEA needs to be defined. Under “Scope of Policy,” the wording will be revised with insertions after “which applicant is selected” and the words “Superintendent and Committee” will be deleted. On page two, the second bullet will be revised to read, “Duration and scope of professional experience.” Mrs. Records raised concerns regarding the new policy in regards to expectations due to the new changes. Dr. Mercurio said some of these concerns are addressed in the new teacher evaluation process. Mr. Green suggested the personnel committee work with the policy committee on exploring those concerns. Dr. Gifford explained the background of the policy and the work of the Committee on Retaining High Quality Teachers. The Committee met for eighteen months, held three forums, and compiled a final report based on their work.

Invitations were extended for participation in the process and this new policy was shared previous to the first read. Ms. Donna Hayes, Co- President of EGEA read correspondence from Jane Argentieri, Assistant Executive Director of NEARI. The letter acknowledged receipt of the first read of the Personnel Assignment Policy and spoke to the upcoming collective bargaining. On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 6-0 to adopt Policy #5415 Personnel Assignment Policy with the amended changes.

b. FY2014 Budget Calendar

This calendar combines school and town budget dates. Mr. Green will look at the possibility of combining the January 24, 2013 budget meeting with the January 22, 2013 School Committee meeting. Dr. Mercurio noted that two elementary administrators will be at a national conference on January 24, 2013. No vote was taken.

VIII. Ad-Hoc Electronic Board Meeting Recommendation

Mr. Sommer is waiting on final information from the IT department regarding wireless access and electronic capability. The recommended date for wireless and paperless meetings is

July 1, 2013. School Committee members will have the option of using their own devices. The recommendation will be finalized at the next meeting.

IX. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Records, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted

6-0 to adjourn at 8:06p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY